

Fifty years ago today, the Peace Corps was established through the passage of the *Peace Corps Act*

, whose purpose was outlined as follows: "To promote world peace and friendship through a Peace Corps, which shall make available to interested counties and areas men and women of the United States qualified for service abroad and willing to serve, under conditions of hardship if necessary, to help the peoples of such counties and areas in meeting their needs for trained manpower." To date, the Peace Corps has trained over 200,000 volunteers who have served in 139 countries. This vast reach has allowed the United States to provide vital assistance to countries in need, providing support for education, health and HIV/AIDS programs, business development, environment, agriculture, and youth development. The monumental impact of the Peace Corps deserves praise and recognition, which is why I am a proud co-sponsor of a resolution recognizing the 50

th anniversary of the Peace Corps and expressing support for designation of March 2011 as Peace Corps Month, as well as the *Peace Stamp for the Peace Corps Act*

Although this year is a time for celebration for the Peace Corps, it also has been a time of loss. Sargent Shriver, the founder and first director, passed away January 18, 2011. Mr. Shriver understood the value of community service and dedicated his life to promote service both at home and abroad. While we mourn the loss of this great man and activist, on this day his memory lives on as we pay tribute to the Peace Corps for this milestone in its history and its continued dedication to serving the global community.